

# The Role of a Probation Officer

The day to day activities that support the functions of a Probation Officer include but are not limited to:

- Interviewing offenders at the office and in custody.
- Ensuring offenders are aware of and understand their obligations.
- Motivating offenders to change.
- Developing case plans with the offender.
- Working with offenders to change their thinking to reduce reoffending.
- Providing referrals to appropriate services and programs.
- Monitoring progress with case plans.
- Monitoring compliance with court ordered conditions.
- Inducting and allocating offenders to community service work.

*A Force for Positive Change!*

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## What is Probation?





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Probation is an alternative to imprisonment. Whenever a defendant is sentenced to a period of probation, he or she is usually permitted to reside at home, maintain employment, and carry out normal daily activities.

Probation requires the defendant to be supervised by a Probation Officer and comply with certain conditions as ordered by the Court. Should the defendant fail to abide by the conditions, he or she will be returned to court for further sanctions to be imposed.

Probation is designed to address the root causes of offending behavior through a variety of cognitive behavioral techniques

## As a Probationer you are expected to:

- ✓ Not to commit another offence while on probation.
- ✓ Keep all appointments with your Probation Officer. You should have a good reason, which will be verified, for being late or missing an appointment.
- ✓ Inform your Probation Officer of any change in address, telephone number, employment etc.
- ✓ Allow Probation Officers to visit your home and employment for scheduled and unscheduled checks.
- ✓ Participate in any and all activities or programmes deemed necessary by your Probation Officer.
- ✓ Appear for Court when required to do so.
- ✓ Not leave the Turks and Caicos Islands without getting approval from your Probation Officer.
- ✓ Abstain from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.
- ✓ Refrain from associating with known criminals.

- ✓ Follow the conditions and guidelines in your Probation Order.
- ✓ Not to make false statements to your Probation Officer.
- ✓ Not to come to an appointment or community service placement under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## Violations of A Probation Order

If you fail to abide by the conditions of your Court Order or follow the directions of your Probation Officer, breach proceedings will be initiated immediately.

The Judge/Magistrate will hear the matter and make a final decision.

The following can be the outcome;

- ✓ Reinstate probation with added or modified conditions.
- ✓ Revoke the probation and impose the original sentence.
- ✓ Order you to pay a fine.
- ✓ Send you to prison for a specified time.